

Remarks by H.E. Mr. HAYASHI Hajime,
Ambassador of Japan to the UK,
For 25th Anniversary and Opening of
New Application and Training Centre of
Invertek Drives Ltd
9 June 2023

Foreign Secretary James Cleverly, Mr Craig Williams MP, Mr Shaun Dean, Distinguished Guests,

It is my great pleasure to be able to celebrate Invertek Drives' 25th anniversary and mark the opening of its state-of-the-art variable frequency drive (VFD) Global Application and Training Centre with you all today. And I would first like to convey my huge congratulations to Invertek Drives and Sumitomo Heavy Industries for this wonderful achievement.

As Ambassador of Japan to the UK, I have visited Wales on many occasions, and it has brought me great joy to see how Japanese business, culture, and people are thriving in Wales. Last year marked a milestone of 50 years of Japanese investment in Wales. And I am sure that, as this new opening of the Application and Training Centre of Invertek Drives suggests, the next 50 years are going to continue to be as prosperous as, or more prosperous than, the previous 50 years.

The success of Invertek Drives must be attributed to the support from and collaboration with Sumitomo Heavy Industries. This partnership has allowed both companies to expand their presence and network globally. I see this successful partnership as an excellent example for other Japanese companies looking to grow in Wales, and in the UK as a whole, to admire and take inspiration from.

Invertek Drives has been at the forefront of developing new and innovative variable frequency drives (VFDs) since its establishment. And its products are used in a wide variety of industries here in the UK and beyond. Invertek Drives VFDs are significantly increasing their presence in the movement of green transition in recent years. From this community in Welshpool, Invertek Drives is harnessing Japanese and British excellence to help build a greener and more sustainable environment of the world. I would like to highly commend this feat as an outstanding contribution to our better future.

The Hiroshima Accord, signed just three weeks ago by Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and Rishi Sunak on the occasion of the G7 Hiroshima Summit hosted by Japan, is designed to further strengthen the global strategic partnership between Japan and the UK. It has a particular focus on trade, investment, and measures to fight against climate change. I would like to underline that the efforts taken by Invertek Drives are perfectly in line with the spirit of this accord.

I would once again like to congratulate Invertek Drives for reaching its 25th anniversary and Sumitomo Heavy Industries for all of its support in building this new centre. This opening could not be happening at a more favourable time, and I hope that Invertek Drives can use this growing momentum of trade, investment and innovation between Japan and the UK to further its success and continue its progress here in such a beautiful place of Welshpool, Wales.

Thank you very much indeed.